

To: Stanislaus, Mathy[Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov]; Natarajan, Nitin[Natarajan.Nitin@epa.gov]
Cc: Cheatham, Reggie[cheatham.reggie@epa.gov]
From: Tulis, Dana
Sent: Fri 8/14/2015 12:08:08 AM
Subject: Fwd: DATA & MESSAGING for NM Aug 7-8 - PLEASE REVIEW

All good here!

Dana S. Tulis
Deputy Office Director
Office of Emergency Management
US EPA
202-564-7938

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Mitchell, Stacey" <Mitchell.Stacey@epa.gov>
Date: August 13, 2015 at 8:06:17 PM EDT
To: "Purchia, Liz" <Purchia.Liz@epa.gov>
Cc: "Hull, George" <Hull.George@epa.gov>, "Tulis, Dana" <Tulis.Dana@epa.gov>, "Burke, Thomas" <Burke.Thomas@epa.gov>, "Harrison, Melissa" <Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov>, "Davis, Tim" <Davis.Tim@epa.gov>, "Valentine, Julia" <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov>, "Distefano, Nichole" <DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov>, "Russo, Rebecca" <Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: DATA & MESSAGING for NM Aug 7-8 - PLEASE REVIEW

Good. Thanks

Stacey H. Mitchell

Deputy General Counsel

Office of General Counsel

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C. 20460

Main 202.564.8064

Direct 202.564.7614

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 13, 2015, at 8:05 PM, Purchia, Liz <Purchia.Liz@epa.gov> wrote:

Revised by the region

Based upon the surface water sample results in New Mexico surface water concentrations are trending toward pre-existing conditions.

I will then say

EPA has continued to take additional samples to document the change in the concentration of metals in the river.

From: Mitchell, Stacey

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 8:04 PM

To: Purchia, Liz

Cc: Hull, George; Tulis, Dana; Burke, Thomas; Harrison, Melissa; Davis, Tim; Valentine, Julia; Distefano, Nichole; Russo, Rebecca

Subject: Re: DATA & MESSAGING for NM Aug 7-8 - PLEASE REVIEW

What's the basis for this statement:

Based upon the surface water sample results in New Mexico it is anticipated that surface water concentrations will return to pre-event water-quality levels.

Predictions worry me.

Additionally, although it's not a legal point, you might want to expand the point that sampling has been going on [at whatever interval]. You reference only sampling on Aug 7&8 and then later say:

EPA will continue to take additional samples to document the change in the concentration of metals in the river.

Stacey H. Mitchell

Deputy General Counsel

Office of General Counsel

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1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C. 20460

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Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 13, 2015, at 7:53 PM, Purchia, Liz <Purchia.Liz@epa.gov> wrote:

We need everyone to look at this message ASAP. Once you respond to me, we need to get it posted on the web with the data.

Tim – We'll need you to get this data posted with the language below.

Julia – We'll need you to send it from the HQ list.

David – heads up to your media.

Nichole/Rebecca – You'll need to flag for your congressionals.

These needs to go up now because of a R6 public meeting.

Date: 8.13.15

Contact:

press@epa.gov or 970-812-3351

EPA Statement on Data from New Mexico to Navajo Nation from Gold King Mine Release

FARMINGTON, NM - Today, EPA is releasing additional water quality data from Aug. 7 to Aug. 8, 2015 for the Animas and San Juan Rivers from the Northern Border of New Mexico to Navajo Nation. Based upon the surface water sample results in New Mexico it is anticipated that surface water concentrations will return to pre-event water-quality levels.

To assess the impacts of the release at the Gold King Mine water quality, samples were collected from the Northern Border of New Mexico to Navajo Nation at numerous intervals beginning on Aug. 7, 2015. Samples were taken prior to the plume's arrival to establish a baseline for water quality comparisons. Each surface water sample was analyzed for 24 metals, including arsenic, cadmium, lead and mercury.

Surface water samples were collected on Friday, August 7, 2015, at four (4) locations prior to arrival of the plume along the Animas and San Juan Rivers in New Mexico. On Saturday, August 8, 2015, nine (9) locations were sampled after arrival of the plume.

EPA will continue to take additional samples to document the change in the concentration of metals in the river. EPA has shared this data with state, local and tribal officials in New Mexico to assist them in their decisions regarding the ongoing use of water resources. These results are based on validated sampling data collected from Aug. 7 to Aug. 8, 2015.

HYPERLINK:

August 13, 2015: EPA statement on New Mexico data from Gold King Mine release

<Copy of R6Surface Water Summary Table_20150812.xlsx>